



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Thursday, December 20, 2007

Arizona Department of Public Safety Officers to Distribute Christmas Bears to Hospitalized Children

For the 14th year in a row, Arizona Department of Public Safety Officers will be handing out Christmas Teddy Bears to more than 2,500 children statewide who find themselves in the hospital during the holidays. In the past 14 years DPS Officers have visited over 15,000 kids who missed Christmas at home.

Sponsored by the Arizona Highway Patrolman Association, DPS Officers are fanning out across the state this week bringing joy to thousands of sick kids who can't be home with their families at Christmas time. Officers in Tucson visited children in the Pediatric Wards at both the Tucson Medical Center and at University Medical Center.

In Phoenix DPS Officers armed with Christmas Bears will be visiting kids at Phoenix Children's Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital and the Maricopa Medical Center on Friday December 21st at 10:00 a.m. The goal is to hand out 500 bears and visit with 500 children that day.

Please contact Sgt. Tim Mason for time and location if you are a media outlet wishing to cover this event.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.

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